

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver tube removably connectable to a hearing aid and a receiver of the hearing aid; and

an ear wax trap comprising a microporous membrane, wherein the ear wax trap is disposed within the receiver tube.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per square inch or more.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially limits the passage of water through the membrane.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ear wax trap is waterproof.

27-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a hearing aid comprising a receiver;

a receiver tube removably coupled to the hearing aid and the receiver; and  
an ear wax trap disposed in the receiver tube, the ear wax trap comprising  
a microporous membrane.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the  
microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched  
polytetrafluoroethylene.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the foamed  
and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per  
square inch or more.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the  
microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially  
limits the passage of water through the membrane.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the ear wax  
trap is waterproof.

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, ~~further comprising: a~~  
wherein the receiver having has an opening, and wherein the receiver tube is  
removably coupled to the receiver about the opening.

43. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37 [[42]], further comprising:  
a locking mechanism for selectively coupling the receiver tube to the  
receiver.

44. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:  
a funnel disposed about the opening of the receiver and configured to  
guide the receiver tube into the opening.

45. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:

a plurality of flexible flanges disposed between an end of the receiver tube and the opening in the receiver, the flexible flanges configured to hold the receiver tube in place when disposed within the opening.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:

a plurality of lugs radially extending from an end of the receiver tube; and  
a locking rib disposed about the opening of the receiver and configured to allow the receiver tube to be connected to or removed from the receiver when in a first position, and locking the receiver tube to the receiver when the receiver tube is rotated to a second position relative to the receiver.

47. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the receiver includes a threaded portion proximate the opening, wherein the receiver tube includes a radial flange extending from an end thereof, and wherein the apparatus further comprises:

a collar having mating threads with respect to the threaded portion of the receiver and configured to hold the flange of the receiver tube about the opening of the receiver when the collar is engaged with the threaded portion of the receiver.

48. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the receiver tube and the opening of the receiver are configured to be press fit together.

49. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the receiver tube and the receiver have mating threads to facilitate the removable coupling therebetween.